Nixon Gives Testimony On Papers

7-30-75 Post

Associated Press

A lawyer seeking public access to tapes and documents of Richard M. Nixon's years in the White House said yesterday the former President was questioned at length July 25 on the tangled issue of who owns the materials.

For more than seven hours Nixon answered questions under oath during a civil suit deposition taken at his San Clemente home, said William Dobrovir, an attorney for columnist Jack Anderson. Dobrovir declined to characterize Nixon's physical appearance or general condition.

In response to a reques from Dobrovir a special three-judge court had said Nixon must defend orally his contention that the presidential papers belong to him. Nixon had previously filed an affidavit saying the materials were needed for a number of reasons, including a book on his presidency. A new law gives possession of the millions of documents and thousands of hours of White House tapes to the government.

Besides Dobrovir, lawyers for the Watergate special prosecutor, the Justice Department, Nixon, and various groups seeking access to the presidential materials were present during the questioning.

Dobrovir said the deposition will be made public, probably in about two weeks, after Nixon has had a chance to make suggested corrections to the transcript.

The questioning marked the second time Nixon has given testimony under oath in recent months. On June 23 and 24, Nixon was questioned for 11 hours by two Watergate grand jurors and Watergate Special Prosecutor Henry S. Ruth Jr.